



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TB SERVICES

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May 21, 2013

TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Sheanne Allen, Tuberculosis Control Program

**SUBJECT: Recommendation to Resume Routine Use of Isoniazid**

The Washington State Department of Health Tuberculosis Program (DOH TB), in partnership with our local public health jurisdictions, would like to recommend resuming the routine use of isoniazid (INH) for latent and active TB cases, effective immediately.

National data suggests the shortage is subsiding in most states and the majority of TB Programs are able to fulfill their INH needs. Of the three INH manufacturers in the United States, two (Teva and Sandoz) now have supplies available for purchase; the third (VersaPharm) anticipates restoring its supply to the market by January 2014.

Here in Washington State, we feel that we have sufficient supply to meet the needs of public health's priority cases while also resuming routine use by community-based clinicians treating other patients for active disease or latent infection. As we transition back to community-wide use of INH, DOH TB will monitor the INH supply to recognize and respond to any recurrence of the shortage.

Remember that rifampin (daily for four months) and isoniazid-plus-rifapentine (once weekly for 12 weeks) remain comparable options for treatment of latent TB in many patients, even in the context of an adequate INH supply. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/treatment/LTBItreatmentoptions.htm>.

If you experience difficulties obtaining INH or have additional questions, please contact Sheanne Allen, Washington State DOH TB Program Manager/ Washington State TB Controller at [360-236-3423](tel:3602363423) or [Sheanne.allen@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Sheanne.allen@doh.wa.gov). She will assist you through the process of obtaining the medication.

For clinical consultation, please call your local public health TB control program.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions.aspx>.

If specialty consultation is needed, your local program can put you in direct contact with the appropriate consultant for TB diagnosis and treatment in your area.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through the national INH shortage.